Setting up of Bio-IT Park

2453. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are looking for setting up of world's first Bio-IT Park in the country in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has offered a suitable location for establishing such a park;

(d) if so, whether Government have studied such a proposal; and

(e) the decision taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have designed a project for Bio-IT Park to be set up in the form of a Public- Private partnership. The selected private promoter would decide the location of the Bio-IT Park from a short lsit of six locations *viz.* National Capital Region (NCR), Kolkata, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai.

Funds allocated for rural telephony in Chhattisgarh

†2454. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3754 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2005 and state:

(a) the amount that has been allocated to the State of Chhattisgarh during the year 2003-04 out of Rs. 200 crores disbursed under Sarvabhomic Seva Dayitava Nidhi;

(b) the details of the number of villages of Chhattisgarh alongwith the amount of financial assistance provided for Multi Access Radio Relay (M.A.R.R.) rural public telephone operations, maintenance and changing

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

them and the number of villages which have been provided public telephone facility, district-wise;

(c) the details of the steps taken in Chhattisgarh to make provisions for rural community phone, rural individual domestic phone and direct exchange lines; and

(d) the details of achievements made in this regard, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 1.02 crore has been allocated to the State of Chhattisgarh during the year 2003-04 out of Rs. 200 crores disbursed under Sarvabhomic Seva Dayitava Nidhi.

(b) to (d) Following steps have been taken in Chhattisgarh to make provisions for rural public phones, rural individual domestic phones and direct exchange lines:—

- As on 30.9.2005, 15,424 villages in Chhattisgarh have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). 4,36[illegible] villages are without VPT as on 30.9.2005. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas etc. The remaining unconnected villages shall be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.
- Agreement has been signed by USOF with BSNL for provision of additional Rural Coummunity Phones (RCPs) by September, 2007 in 576 villages in Chhattisgarh having population of more than 2,000 and not having a PCO. Out of these villages, 482 villages have been provided with RCP as on 30.09.2005.
- Secondary Switching Area-wise position of provision of VPTs and RCPs is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	No. of VPTs	No. of RCPs
1	Bastar	2,084	0
2	Bilaspur	3324	187
3	Durg	3481	73
4	Raigarh	1729	62
5	Raipur	3328	160
6	Sarguja	1478	0
	TOTAL	15,424	482

- Agreement has been signed by USOF with BSNL for provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) 'on demand' in 88 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs). These would be available in the first quarter of the year 2006.
- A sum of Rs. 22.27 crore has been disbursed so far towards providing financial assistance for MARR replacement and capital cost/operations/maintenance of rural public telephones in Chhattisgarh Telecom circle.

New Telecom Policy

2455. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Telecom Policy is on the anvil;

(b) whether it is proposed to clip the wings or curtail the powers of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India by transferring certain function to Department of Communications; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present there is no proposal under consideration to redefine powers and functions of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India by amending Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Depth of towers

2456. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether depth of the towers for receiving the network without any disturbances are as per the norms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take action against the erring companies; and